



Laura Dreyer & the
MANHATTAN
RIO Connection

Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection

features saxophonist & flutist Laura Dreyer performing dynamic original Brazilian Jazz compositions and colorful arrangements of Brazilian standards.

Showcasing an ensemble of top Brazilian Jazz artists, Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection synthesize catchy lyrical melodies with jazz and Brazilian rhythms resulting in an exciting contemporary palette of sound with a strong rhythmic twist!

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Laura Dreyer & The Manhattan/Rio Connection features saxophonist, flutist, and composer Laura Dreyer, accompanied by an ensemble of stellar Brazilian jazz artists. Their music demonstrates the special sound that Brazilian jazz has developed in the New York jazz scene.

Dreyer, who lives in New York City, is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. She has pursued her passion for Brazilian music for over 20 years while also cutting a strong career-path in American jazz. She enjoys combining her vast experience as a jazz musician with her passion for Brazilian musical styles.

Her newest release, *Vida. Arte. Amor.*, (Mayimba Jazz), was recorded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and is receiving rave reviews. Dreyer has released three other CDs as a leader and producer, including *Mysterious Encounter* (Lavasphere), *Free Flying Bird* (Piloo), and *Sax in the City* (Apria). She is featured on acclaimed Brazilian pianist Dom Salvador's newest release, *The Art of Samba Jazz*, which received the Premio da Musica Brasileira award for Best Instrumental CD.

Dreyer, who has toured nationally and internationally, has headlined at the Kennedy Center's Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Festival, The Syracuse Jazz Festival, Blue Note Napa, and The Montavilla Jazz Festival, as well as many NYC venues including Smalls, Fat Cat, Sweet Rhythm, Birdland, Zinc Bar, and many others. Recent engagements include California Jazz Conservatory (Berkeley, CA), The Jazz Station (Eugene, OR), An Die Musik Live (Baltimore, MD), The Sound Room (Oakland, CA), TribOz and Santo Scenarium (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), and Christos (Salem, OR), to name a few.

The group's program features original contemporary Brazilian jazz, as well as arrangements of Brazilian jazz classics. Dreyer's compositions combine catchy, lyrical melodies in a variety of Brazilian styles such as samba, bossa nova, baião, afoxé, maracatu, partido alto, and more. [Read full bio...](#)





PRESS

"Every once and awhile an artist comes around to surprise everyone with the proficiency in an idiom naturally foreign to him or her. The saxophonist and flutist Laura Dreyer is one such artist. The Portuguese idiom of Brasil comes so naturally to her that she could almost fool even the most astute listener into believing that she is Brazilian."

- Raul da Gama, Latin Jazz Network

"Dreyer's many original compositions on the album explore a full range of Brazilian styles - samba, bossa nova, maracatu, baião, samba-funk, and bolero, combining them with jazz and a few rock touches. Throughout, she demonstrates her deep understanding of the subtleties of Brazilian phrasing, as well as her own virtuosity on both the alto saxophone and flute. Vida. Arte. Amor. draws you in, and keeps you there. Laura Dreyer finds the heart of Brazil and invites us to come along. Get on board, non-stop."

- Tim Wilkins, WBGO

"..this music is the stuff that keeps you young. This is a set of utterly killer Latin jazz that hits the mark throughout."

- Midwest Record Entertainment Reviews

"You don't need extensive music theory training or a music degree to appreciate her catchy and artful saxophone melodies...She's a musical straight-shooter who understands the value in a memorable melody. Vida. Arte. Amor. isn't a bold statement, a power play, or a grandstanding affair. It's simply an expression of joy, lovingly delivered by the talented Laura Dreyer.

- Dan Bilawsky, All About Jazz





BOOKINGS

Select Recent Performances

- Blue Note Napa - Napa, CA, 3/2019
- Mazza Castle - Pacifica, CA, 3/2019
- Smalls - New York, NY, 3/2019
- The California Jazz Conservatory - Berkeley, CA, 7/2018
- Vinyard View House Concert - Livermore, CA, 7/2018
- Open Embrace House Concert - Cupertino, CA, 7/2018
- Jack London Revue - Portland, OR, 3/2018
- The Jazz Station - Eugene, OR, 3/2018
- Jazz Forum Arts - Tarrytown, N.Y. 9/2017, 10/2018
- Montpelier Arts Center - Laurel, MD, 3/2017
- The Sound Room - Oakland, CA, 2/2017
- Brazilian Music Foundation International Choro Festival - New York, NY, 2016, 2018, 2019
- Lincoln City Cultural Center - Lincoln City, OR, 8/2016
- The Montavilla Jazz Festival - Portland, OR, 8/2016
- The Sound Room - Oakland, CA, 8/2016
- Twins Jazz - Washington, DC, 5/2016
- An Die Musik Live - Baltimore, MD, 4/2016
- Christos Jazz - Salem, OR, 4/2016
- Concert for the Donner/Tahoe Giving Fund - Truckee, CA, 4/2016

Select Recent Workshops

- The California Jazz Conservatory - Berkeley, CA, 2/2107, 7/2018
 - Portland State University - Portland, OR, 4/2016
 - The University of Reno, Nevada - Reno, NV, 4/2016
 - The Brazilian Music Foundation Schol of Music, New York, NY, 12/15
- Watch [videos](#) or listen to [audio](#) samples



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